

XLV COSAC CONTRIBUTION AND CONCLUSIONS AMENDMENTS

| ORIGINAL PROPOSAL BY HU PRESIDENCY | AMENDMENTS |
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| <p>CONTRIBUTION OF THE XLV COSAC</p> <p>Budapest, 29-31 May 2011</p> <hr style="width: 25%; margin: 10px auto;"/> | <p>Deletion: crossed</p> <p>New: <u>underlined</u></p> |
| <p>1. The way to recovery: Economic governance, Europe 2020 Strategy and the European Semester</p> | |
| <p>1.1. COSAC supports the efforts of the European Union institutions to strengthen economic coordination within the European Union for the sake of faster recovery of the European economy and sustainable growth.</p> | <p>Austria: COSAC supports the efforts of the European Union institutions to strengthen economic coordination within the European Union <u>and</u> for the sake of faster recovery of the European economy and sustainable growth <u>underlines the need to streamline these efforts within the Europe 2020 Strategy.</u></p> <p>European Parliament: COSAC supports the efforts of the European Union institutions to strengthen economic coordination within the European Union for the sake of faster recovery of the European economy and sustainable growth. <u>COSAC calls for the strengthening of Community method in this regard.</u></p> |

1.2. COSAC affirms that the package of six legislative proposals on economic governance is essential to ensure fiscal discipline and to avoid excessive macroeconomic imbalances as stated in the conclusions of the European Council of 24-25 March 2011. Therefore COSAC invites all EU institutions concerned to take each necessary measure in order to adopt the above mentioned proposals by June 2011. In this respect, COSAC highly appreciates the efforts of the Presidency-in-office to find a compromise between the EU institutions.

1.3. COSAC invites the Governments of EU Members States to facilitate the involvement of Parliaments in the European Semester, in order to guarantee the budgetary powers of Parliaments. COSAC reaffirms that Parliaments intend to actively participate in this new initiative using their traditional means of parliamentary involvement.

UK House of Lords:
COSAC invites the Governments of EU Members States to facilitate the involvement of Parliaments in the European Semester, in order to guarantee the budgetary powers of Parliaments. COSAC reaffirms that Parliaments intend to actively participate in this new initiative using their traditional means of parliamentary involvement including through their scrutiny of national reform programmes.

Czech Senat:
COSAC invites the Governments of EU Members States to facilitate the involvement of Parliaments in the European Semester, in order to guarantee respect the budgetary powers of Parliaments. COSAC reaffirms that Parliaments intend to actively participate in this new initiative using their traditional means of parliamentary involvement.

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| | <p>European Parliament: COSAC invites the Governments of EU Members States to facilitate the involvement of Parliaments in the European Semester, in order to guarantee the budgetary powers of Parliaments. <u>It is important to ensure the appropriate level of engagement in cooperation between national Parliaments and the European Parliament in the framework of the European Semester.</u> COSAC reaffirms that Parliaments intend to actively participate in this new initiative using their traditional means of parliamentary involvement.</p> |
| <p>1.4. COSAC welcomes the initiative of a possible annual interparliamentary conference on budget and calls on the EU institutions to actively contribute to the substantial discussion to be held in this framework.</p> | <p>Sweden, Czech Senat: COSAC welcomes the initiative of a possible annual interparliamentary conference on budget and calls on the EU institutions to actively contribute to the substantial discussion to be held in this framework.</p> |
| <p>1.5. COSAC acknowledges the efforts of several Member States aiming for closer cooperation in the economic, fiscal and monetary policy fields and urges all Member States to exploit the possibilities for closer cooperation provided by the Treaties with special respect to the internal market.</p> | <p>Austria: COSAC acknowledges the efforts of several Member States aiming for closer cooperation in the economic, fiscal and monetary policy fields and urges all Member States to exploit the possibilities for closer cooperation provided by the Treaties with special respect to the internal market.</p> <p>Czech Senat: COSAC <u>acknowledges notes</u> the <u>recent</u> efforts <u>of the eurozone, joined by</u> several <u>non-eurozone</u> Member States, <u>that resulted in the Euro Plus Pact</u> aiming for closer cooperation in the economic <u>and</u> fiscal and monetary policy fields and urges <u>invites</u> all Member States to exploit <u>examine</u> the possibilities for closer cooperation provided by the Treaties with special respect to the internal market.</p> |

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| <p>2. Parliamentary scrutiny of the common foreign and security policy (CFSP) and the common security and defence policy (CSDP)</p> | <p>European Parliament: Parliamentary scrutiny of the common foreign and security policy (CFSP) and the common security and defence policy (CSDP) <u>Further development of effective and regular parliamentary cooperation within the European Union</u></p> |
| <p>2.1. COSAC welcomes the ongoing discussion in the framework of the Conference of Speakers of EU Parliaments concerning the future of parliamentary scrutiny of CFSP and CSDP and notes with satisfaction the progress achieved during the Brussels Speakers' Conference. COSAC considers that the conclusions adopted at this meeting constitute a good starting point for future debates and final decisions concerning the parliamentary scrutiny of CFSP and CSDP.</p> | <p>UK House of Lords: COSAC welcomes the ongoing discussion in the framework of the Conference of Speakers of EU Parliaments concerning the future of parliamentary scrutiny of CFSP and CSDP and notes with satisfaction the progress achieved during the Brussels Speakers' Conference. COSAC considers that the conclusions adopted at this meeting constitute a good starting point for future debates and final decisions concerning the parliamentary scrutiny of CFSP and CSDP. <u>We look forward to a new meeting to continue this scrutiny work being convened at the earliest opportunity.</u></p> <p>Austria: COSAC welcomes <u>takes note</u> the ongoing discussion in the framework of the Conference of Speakers of EU Parliaments concerning the future of parliamentary scrutiny of CFSP and CSDP and notes with satisfaction the progress <u>regrets that a comprehensive agreement on the future parliamentary scrutiny of CFSP and CSDP could not be</u> achieved during the Brussels Speakers' Conference. COSAC considers <u>however</u> that the conclusions adopted at this meeting constitute a good starting point for future debates and final decisions concerning the parliamentary scrutiny of CFSP and CSDP.</p> |
| <p>2.2. COSAC notes that following the termination of the WEU</p> | <p>Austria:</p> |

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| <p>Parliamentary Assembly a framework for the parliamentary scrutiny of CFSP and CSDP should be found in conformity with the provisions of the Lisbon Treaty.</p> | <p>COSAC notes that following the termination of the WEU Parliamentary–Assembly a framework for the parliamentary scrutiny of CFSP and CSDP should be found in conformity with the provisions of the Lisbon Treaty.</p> |
| <p>2.3. Hence COSAC requests all concerned institutions, with special regard to the European External Action Service, to cooperate closely with Parliaments and properly inform them on developments in the policy fields of CFSP and CSDP in order to fulfil the provisions of the Treaty of Lisbon.</p> | <p>Austria: Hence COSAC requests all concerned institutions, with special regard to the European—External—Action—Service <u>High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy</u>, to cooperate closely with Parliaments and properly inform them on developments in the policy fields of CFSP and CSDP in order to fulfil the provisions of the Treaty of Lisbon.</p> |
| | <p>European Parliament: <u>NEW 2.4.</u> <u>COSAC welcomes the European Commission communication on the scrutiny of EUROPOL and looks forward to the Commission proposals on the monitoring of EUROJUST.</u> <u>NEW 2.5.</u> <u>COSAC highlights the essential role of parliaments in the evaluation, and further development of the European Area of Freedom, Security and Justice.</u></p> |
| <p>3. The State of the Union</p> | |
| <p>3.1. In accordance with the Preamble of the Treaty on the European Union COSAC underlines that the Treaty of Lisbon marks a new stage in the process of European integration undertaken with the establishment of the European Communities.</p> | <p>Austria: In accordance with the Preamble of the Treaty on the European Union COSAC underlines that the Treaty of Lisbon marks a new stage in the process of European integration undertaken with the establishment of the European Communities.</p> |

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| | <p>European Parliament: In accordance with the Preamble of the Treaty on the European Union COSAC underlines that the Treaty of Lisbon marks a new stage in the process of European integration undertaken with the establishment of the European Communities. <u>It reaffirms the need to implement the provisions of the Treaty on effective cooperation between national Parliaments and the European Parliament.</u></p> |
| <p>3.2. COSAC welcomes its first debate on the State of the Union in its framework. It invites the European Commission to take the findings into consideration when elaborating its own evaluation of the State of the Union and also when preparing the Commission Work Programme</p> | |
| <p>3.3. With respect to the further developments within the European Union, COSAC underlines the importance of better communication with the citizens of the EU, not exclusively, but also by means of communicating the European Union through the Parliaments.</p> | <p>European Parliament: With respect to the further developments within the European Union, COSAC underlines the importance of better communication with the citizens of the EU, not exclusively, but also by means of communicating the European Union through the Parliaments. <u>It promotes the use of new instruments, such as the European Citizens' Initiative.</u></p> |
| <p>4. Cooperation with the institutions of the European Union</p> | |
| <p>4.1. COSAC welcomes the openness and close cooperation between national Parliaments and the European Commission as well as the European Parliament respectively established in the framework of the Treaty of Lisbon.</p> | <p>Austria: COSAC welcomes the openness and close <u>new quality of</u> cooperation between national Parliaments and the European Commission as well as the European Parliament respectively established in the framework of the Treaty of Lisbon.</p> |

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| <p>4.2. COSAC welcomes the active work of national Parliaments in scrutinizing the subsidiarity principle according to Protocol 2 of the Treaty of Lisbon. National Parliaments have adopted different points of views concerning the practical implementation of the subsidiarity checks. COSAC considers that the existing practices and the experiences on the application of the Protocol 2 should be shared by Parliaments and EU institutions and the application of Protocol 2 should be clarified further on by means of continuous dialogue between all concerned stakeholders.</p> | <p>Polish Sejm: COSAC welcomes the active work of national Parliaments in scrutinizing the subsidiarity principle according to Protocol 2 of the Treaty of Lisbon. National Parliaments have adopted different points of views <u>procedures</u> concerning the practical implementation of the subsidiarity checks. COSAC considers that the existing practices and the experiences on the application of the Protocol 2 should be shared by Parliaments and EU institutions and the application of Protocol 2 should be clarified further on by means of continuous dialogue between all concerned stakeholders.</p> <p>Austria: COSAC welcomes the active work of national Parliaments in scrutinizing the subsidiarity principle according to Protocol 2 of the Treaty of Lisbon. National Parliaments have adopted different points of views concerning the practical implementation of the subsidiarity checks. COSAC considers that the existing practices and the experiences on the application of the Protocol 2 should be shared by Parliaments and EU institutions and the application of Protocol 2 should be clarified further on by means of continuous dialogue between all concerned stakeholders.</p> |
| | <p>Sweden: <u>NEW 4.3. :</u> <u>In order for national Parliaments to be able to carry out subsidiarity checks in accordance with the aim of the Treaty of Lisbon, it is a prerequisite that the European Commission's proposals are thoroughly motivated. COSAC recognizes the</u></p> |

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| | <p><u>ongoing efforts of the European Commission to meet this demand, but underlines the importance for the Commission to continue and extend this work further.</u></p> |
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| <p>CONCLUSIONS OF THE XLV COSAC</p> <p>Budapest, 29-31 May 2011</p> | |
| <p>1. <i>(to be confirmed upon adoption)</i> COSAC welcomes the adoption of its amended Rules of Procedure, with the changes bringing the Rules of Procedure in line with the Treaty of Lisbon. COSAC appreciates the constructive efforts made by all delegations to reach this important agreement. The amendment to the Rules of Procedure of COSAC, as it was agreed during the XLV COSAC in Budapest, is attached to these Conclusions. The COSAC Secretariat is asked to prepare its publication in the Official Journal of the European Union.</p> | |
| <p>2. COSAC calls upon the upcoming Presidencies to continue the debate on the tabled substantial amendments of the Rules of Procedure of COSAC in view of reaching agreement on them in the near future.</p> | <p>Austria, Sweden: COSAC calls upon the upcoming Presidencies to continue the debate on the tabled substantial amendments of the Rules of Procedure of COSAC in view of reaching agreement on them in the near future.</p> |
| <p>3. COSAC thanks the Belgian Presidency of the Conference of Speakers of the EU Parliaments for presenting a report on the last Conference held on 4-5 April 2011 in Brussels and expresses its support for the work done in the framework of the Conference of Speakers seeking a consensual solution</p> | |

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| <p>to the establishment of the mechanism for parliamentary scrutiny of common foreign and security policy, including common security and defence policy.</p> | |
| <p>4. COSAC agrees to hold an annual general policy debate during its ordinary meeting in the first semester of the year, thus allowing the Contribution of COSAC to be presented in time to feed into the preparations for the State of the Union speech and the Commission Work Programme for the following year. The President or a Vice-President of the Commission should be invited to take part in the debate.</p> | <p>UK House of Lords: COSAC agrees to hold, <u>at the Presidency's discretion</u>, an annual general policy debate during its ordinary meeting in the first semester of the year, thus allowing the Contribution of COSAC to be presented in time to feed into the preparations for the State of the Union speech and the Commission Work Programme for the following year. The President or a Vice-President of the Commission should be invited to take part in the debate</p> |
| <p>5. COSAC also agrees that the presentation of the Commission's Work Programme for the following year by the President or a Vice-President of the Commission should take place during the ordinary meeting of COSAC in the second semester of the year, after the publication of the Programme. Therefore, when fixing the date of the meeting, COSAC Presidencies are invited to take into account the time of the publication of the Commission's Work Programme. The agenda of the ordinary meeting of COSAC in the second semester of the year may also include an assessment of the Commission's activities in the course of the year.</p> | <p>UK House of Lords: COSAC also agrees that the presentation of the Commission's Work Programme for the following year by the President or a Vice-President of the Commission should take place, <u>at the Presidency's discretion</u>, during the ordinary meeting of COSAC in the second semester of the year, after the publication of the Programme. Therefore, when fixing the date of the meeting, COSAC Presidencies are invited to take into account the time of the publication of the Commission's Work Programme. The agenda of the ordinary meeting of COSAC in the second semester of the year may also include an assessment of the Commission's activities in the course of the year.</p> |
| <p>6. The decision on the Commission's initiatives to be debated in the framework of COSAC should preferably be made at the meeting of the Chairpersons of COSAC in the first semester of the year. As a result, Parliaments would have</p> | <p>Austria: The decision on the Commission's initiatives to be debated in the framework of COSAC should preferably be made at the meeting of the Chairpersons of COSAC in the first semester of the year. As a</p> |

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| <p>the opportunity to inform each other about their intention to scrutinize EU draft legislative acts, in particular those which may raise subsidiarity concerns.</p> | <p>result <u>Following the discussion on the Commission's Work Programme</u>, Parliaments would have the opportunity to inform each other about their intention to scrutinize EU draft legislative acts, in particular those which may raise subsidiarity concerns.</p> |
| <p>7. COSAC recalls that the term in office of the current Permanent Member of the COSAC Secretariat expires on 31 December 2011. COSAC underlines that the appointment of the new Permanent Member should take place during the XLVI COSAC, therefore, the financial framework for the following two years, i.e. 2012-2013 should be agreed among the participating Parliaments as soon as possible.</p> | |
| <p>8. COSAC also recalls that the present co-financing of the Permanent Member of the COSAC Secretariat and the costs of running the office and website of COSAC will end on 31 December 2011. COSAC welcomes the (...) letters of intent of national Parliaments and parliamentary Chambers expressing their commitment for the co-financing for the following two years, i.e. 2012-2013. Furthermore, COSAC welcomes the fact that the threshold of a minimum of the national Parliaments of 14 Member States has been reached. COSAC calls upon the remaining Parliaments and parliamentary Chambers to renew their commitment for the co-financing.</p> | |
| <p>9. COSAC welcomes the 15th Bi-annual Report prepared by the COSAC Secretariat and warmly thanks the Secretariat for its excellent work. The Report provides comprehensive information on the parliamentary developments with</p> | |

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| regard to the Europe 2020 Strategy, economic governance, the European Semester and the Commission Work Programme 2012. | |
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